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LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the situation in Rwanda, where developments are a matter of great concern.

On the ground, the provisions of the Dar-es-Salaam agreement, particularly those relating to the withdrawal of the warring forces, appear to be a long way from being fully implemented. Furthermore, with regard to the political process, the talks between the parties at Arusha are deadlocked. In that context, it is to be feared that the fighting will soon resume, leading to further massacres and to a very serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

In view of this risk, the French Government believes that the international community, particularly the United Nations, should take emergency action. The adoption of Security Council resolution 812 (1993) represents an initial stage in taking such action, which France, having taken the initiative in that connection, welcomes. The French Government believes that specific measures must now be taken to demonstrate the determination of the United Nations to promote a negotiated political settlement and to forestall a military solution.

We believe that United Nations military observers should be deployed at the border between Rwanda and Uganda as a matter of priority. We are of the view that such a deployment, which has been requested by the authorities of Rwanda and Uganda, could reduce tension in the region and promote the negotiation process between the parties. The French Government hopes that an advance component of the observer contingent can be deployed immediately, in view of the urgency of the situation, and that recommendations will be submitted as soon as possible to the Security Council for the deployment of the remainder of the contingent. Moreover, it awaits with the keenest interest the report that the Security Council requested you, in resolution 812 (1993), paragraph 2, to make to it.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE

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